

subdivided: anterior frontals much smaller than the posterior; vertical large, broad in front, with the lateral margins concave; occipitals rounded behind. Loreal nearly square; three anteoculars, the upper of which is large, concave, extending onto the vertical shield; the two lower are small, and may be regarded as detached portions of the fourth upper labial. Two postoculars; eight upper labials, of which the fifth enters the orbit. Temporals scale-like, 2+3+3, the lower of the anterior pair being larger than the upper. The scales smooth, in 19 rows. Ventrals 197; anal bifid; subcaudals 79. Abdomen with a slight ridge on each side.

The ground colour of this most beautiful snake is olive; a bright orange streak begins on the vertical shield and runs along the entire median line of the back and tail. It is interrupted by broad black cross bands, of which the two anterior occupy the crown of the head, twenty-one encircle the trunk, and eight the tail. The bands on the trunk do not reach across the middle of the abdomen; but the rings on the tail are complete.

The length of the entire specimen is 26 inches, that of the tail being $6\frac{1}{2}$. It was found on the mountains east of El Muwayláh.

ZAMENIS CLIFFORDII, Schleg.

A young specimen from the sandy coast-region of Tihamat Midian.

ECHIS CARINATA, Merr.

One specimen from the sandy coast-region.

ECHIS COLORATA.

This specimen approaches the true Vipers in general habit; but the scales on the side are arranged in the same peculiar manner which is characteristic of *Echis*. In the thickest part of the body the scales form about 35 longitudinal series. There are four series of small scales between the eye and the upper labials. Greyish with large pinkish spots on the upperside; they are rounded on the front part of the body, but more irregular and broken up on the posterior. Lower parts whitish, speckled and powdered with greyish.

Ventrals 208; subcaudals 48.

The single example, which is much injured, was caught on Jebel Shárr, at an altitude of 4500 feet above the level of the sea. It is 27 inches long, the thin tail measuring 3 inches only.

2. On a new Species of *Sylvia* from Abyssinia, and on some other Abyssinian Sylvians. By HENRY SEEBOHM, F.Z.S.

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The only species of the genus *Sylvia* obtained by Jesse on the Abyssinian expedition, was the common Whitethroat. This species was also obtained by Blanford; and in addition he records (Geol. and

Zool. of Abyss. p. 379) a single specimen of *Sylvia melanocephala*, Gm., shot at Rairo in Habab. We learn from the personal narrative that Blanford was at Rairo between the 10th and 15th of August. The skin, doubtless obtained between these two dates, is in the British Museum, and appears to me to belong to a hitherto undescribed species, which I propose to call

SYLVIA BLANFORDI.

The general colour of the upper parts is brown, the innermost secondaries, the quills, and the wing-coverts being narrowly margined with brownish white. The cheeks, head, and nape are brownish black. The tail is very dark brown, the outside tail-feathers (which are much abraded) showing traces of having been tipped with white. The general colour of the underparts is white, shading into brown on the sides of the breast, flanks, axillaries, and under tail-coverts. The bastard primary projects $\cdot 3$ inch beyond the primary-coverts; and the second primary is between the eighth and ninth in length. The bird is moulting some of the primaries between the third and the eighth. Both mandibles of the bill are dark, and the tarsus and feet are dark slate-grey. The wing measures 2.52, and the tail 2.62. The culmen, which is slightly injured, measures about $\cdot 51$ when perfect.

The only species with which this bird can be confounded are *S. curruca* (Linn.), *S. melanocephala*, Gm., and *S. rubescens*, Blanf. From *S. curruca* it is easily distinguished by its head being brownish black instead of pale slate-grey, and by its tail being longer instead of shorter, than its wing. From *S. melanocephala* it may be distinguished by the length of wing being 2.52, instead of varying from 2.15 to 2.35, and the colour of the tarsus and feet being dark slate-grey instead of brown. Besides being a larger bird with darker feet, it has a larger bastard primary, a shorter second primary, and has less white on the outside tail-feathers. From *S. rubescens* it may be distinguished by its tail being longer, instead of shorter, than the wing, by its feet being dark slate-grey instead of palish brown, and by its larger size, the less amount of white on the outside feathers of its tail, its longer bastard primary, and more rounded wing.

Sylvia blanfordi appears to be quite distinct from any of the birds described by Rüppell in his 'Neue Wirbelth. Abyss.', or by Heuglin in his 'Orn. Nordost-Afrika's,' and also from the types of Hemprich and Ehrenberg, in the Berlin Museum, described by Dresser and Blanford in the Ibis (1874, p. 335).

Another error of identification in Blanford's 'Abyssinia' will be found on page 358. The skin from Senapé in the British Museum, labelled *Ruticilla phœnicura*, Linn., does not belong to that bird, but to the nearly allied species *Ruticilla mesoleuca*, Ehr. I have also examined the *Pratincolæ* from the Abyssinian collection in the British Museum; and Mr. Sharpe has pointed out to me that *Pratincola semitorquata*, Heugl., is undoubtedly the breeding-plumage of *P. albofasciata*, Rüpp., and that Blanford's skins labelled *Pratincola*

pastor, Strickland, are undoubtedly *P. indica*, Blyth. This species, distinguished, amongst other characters, from *P. rubicola* (Linn.), by its pure white unspotted rump, and its almost entirely black axillaries, was first discovered in Europe by Harvie-Brown and myself in the valley of the Petchora; Drs. Finsch and Brehm found it on the Obb; and I brought home several skins from the Yenesay. Although Severtzoff records both species from Turkestan, there can be scarcely any doubt that Pallas's birds from the Irtish and the Tobol belong to the eastern species, which must therefore stand as *Pratincola maura*, Pall. (Reise Russ. Reichs, ii. p. 708).

3. On the Identity of *Horornis fortipes*, Hodgson, *Neornis assimilis*, Gray, *Horeites robustipes*, Swinhoe, *Horeites pallidus*, Brooks, and *Horeites brunnescens*, Hume. By
HENRY SEEBOHM, F.Z.S.

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CETTIA FORTIPES (Hodgson).

Salicaria —?, Hodgson, icon. ined. nos. 900 & 928.

Horornis fortipes, Hodgson, J. A. S. Beng. xiv. p. 584 (1845).

Drymœca brevicaudata, Blyth, J. A. S. Beng. xvi. p. 459 (1847).

Horornis assimilis, Gray, Cat. Mamm. &c. Nepal coll. Hodgson, p. 30, no. 143 (1863, ex Hodgson).

Horeites robustipes, Swinhoe, Ibis, 1866, p. 398.

Neornis assimilis, Gray, Hand-list of Birds, no. 3096 (1869).

Horeites pallidus, Brooks, J. A. S. Beng. xli. p. 78 (1872).

Horeites brunnescens, Hume, Ibis, 1872, p. 109.

An examination of thirty-two skins of *Horornis fortipes*, Hodgson, *H. assimilis*, Gray, *Horeites robustipes*, Swinhoe, and *Horeites pallidus*, Brooks, leads me to the conclusion that they all belong to one species.

They agree in having the general colour of the upper parts russet (not olive) brown, somewhat yellower on the rump. The wings are brown, fringed externally with russet-brown, and margined internally with white. The tail is brown, fringed with russet-brown. An indistinct eyebrow and the underparts are buffish white, shading into ochraceous brown on the flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts. Axillaries and under wing-coverts pale yellow. Young birds have the underparts yellower. The bill is moderately stout, dark horn-colour above, pale horn-colour below, but darker towards the tip. Rictal bristles slender. The wing is very rounded, the first primary rather more than half the length of the second, and the fifth, sixth, and seventh are nearly equal and longest. The tail consists of ten feathers only, and is rounded, its outside feathers being about 0·45 inch shorter than the longest. The foot and tarsus are robust, pale brown in colour; and the latter is very indistinctly scutellated in front. The length of wing varies in adults from 1·9 to 2·28, the tail being about one-twentieth shorter. The culmen measures about 0·5.